



MEMORANDUM

January 22, 2003

File No. 03-012201

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Jenifer Gitchell, SEPA Center

SUBJECT: **SEPA LEAD AGENCY & DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

This is to advise you that pursuant to WAC 197-11-900 (922 through 948), the Department of Natural Resources has determined that it is Lead Agency for the following:

The Loomis NRCA Management Plan fulfills requirements outlined in the Loomis Forest Settlement Agreement and First Memorandum of Clarification, and the NRCA Act (RCW 79.71). The site includes two parcels, the north block (approximately 14,000 acres) and the south block (approximately 10,700 acres), together they include approximately 24,700 acres. The management plan was developed to coordinate conservation of the property's natural ecological values with traditional agricultural management (grazing) and public use activities (hiking, recreational equestrian use, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing and hunting).

The proposal also incorporates modifications to the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) 1996 Lynx Habitat Management Plan cited in the USFWS lynx take avoidance letter (Martin, April 26, 2002) and the 2002 Modified Lynx Habitat Plan and Mitigated DNS issued May 8, 2002.

In addition, this proposal is designed to be used in conjunction with the Loomis State Forest Landscape Plan, Permit Range Management Plans, Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan, Chopaka NAP Management Plan and the Federal Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan.

The Loomis NRCA is part of the Loomis State Forest located in Township 40 North, Range 24 East and Townships 37 and 38 North, Ranges 23 and 24 East, W.M., Okanogan County.

The Environmental Checklist, the Loomis NRCA Management Plan, the Loomis NRCA Fire Suppression Plan, and Determination of Nonsignificance have been filed with the DNR SEPA Center. These documents are available for review on the DNR website at <http://www.wa.gov/dnr>.

Please notify us immediately if you do not concur with this Lead Agency determination.

Pursuant to WAC 332-41-504, this proposal was filed in the department's SEPA Center, on January 21, 2003. We will consider comments on this proposed DNS received by 4:30 p.m. on February 28, 2003. **Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center at, sepacenter@wadnr.gov or P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015 for distribution to the responsible official. Please include the file number listed above on all comments.**